

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

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INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /089 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3551

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 14620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNWFC

SUBJ: MEETING OF WORKING GROUP ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

RULES OF PROCEDURE, OCTOBER 27-31, 1975

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REF: A) STATE 127532

B) WORLD FOOD COUNCIL DOCUMENT EFC/2,

APRIL 24, 1975

C) ROME 9337, JUNE 29, 1975

SUMMARY: COPIES OF GERMAN AND CANADIAN COMMENTS ON
WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE HAVE BEEN SENT BY
POUCH TO STOWE, DAUGHERTY, AND SURENA. GERMANY SUGGESTS
ENLARGING ROLE OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, IN DIRECTION OF
G-77 EFFORTS, WHILE CANADA (NOT MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP)
CONTINUES TO STRESS NEED FOR FREE DEBATE ON CRIT-
ICAL ISSUES. IN ADDITION TO THESE AND U.S. COMMENTS, ONLY
FRANCE, HUNGARY, AND JAPAN HAVE THUS FAR SUBMITTED COMMENTS,
AND AUSTRIALIA'S ARE REPORTED EN ROUTE. PREPARATIONS ARE
UNDER WAY FOR PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS ON OCTOBER 23-24.
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BELIEVES POLITICAL ATMOS-
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PHERE IS GREATLY IMPROVED OVER JUNE MEETING OF COUNCIL,

AND IS FAVORABLE TO AGREEMENT. HE RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT: 1) TRY TO START WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS COMPLETELY AFRESH ON TECHNICAL NON-POLITICAL BASIS; 2) CONSIDER WHETHER GERMAN COMMENTS ON ENLARGING ROLE OF PRESIDENT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND IF THEY ARE, TEST THEM WITH G-77 IN PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS; 3) IF GERMAN COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. OR TO G-77, TRY TO OMIT CONTROVERSIAL SECTIONS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OR REFER THEM TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AS ISSUES ON WHICH NO CONSENSUS WAS REACHED AND WHICH SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BY INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

1. GERMAN AND CANADIAN COMMENTS ON WFC/2. COPIES OF GERMAN AND CANADIAN COMMENTS ON RULES OF PROCEDURE HAVE BEEN SENT BY TRANSMITTAL SLIPS TO STOWE, DAUGHERTY, AND TO SURENA IN NEW YORK. MAIN THRUST OF GERMAN COMMENTS FAVORS AUGMENTING POWERS OF PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, WHICH WAS KEY ISSUE ON CONTROVERSY DURING FIRST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING (REPORTED IN REF C.) SPECIFICALLY, GERMANS WOULD AUGMENT PRESIDENT'S POWERS BY INCLUDING HIM IN FOLLOWING RULES: 1, 4, 6 PARAS 1-2 AND 4 (IN PARA 4 DELETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR), 9 AND 24. THEY ALSO PROPOSE INSERTING NEW CHAPTER BETWEEN CHAPTERS V AND VI DEFINING POWERS OF PRESIDENT, TO INCLUDE REPRESENTING COUNCIL AND CARRYING OUT SUCH FUNCTIONS AS IT ASSIGNS TO HIM. SECRETARIAT WOULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN RULES 3, 6 PARA 3 AND 9 PARA 2. CANADA, WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT MEMBER OF WORKING GROUP WAS LEADING EXPONENT IN GROUP MEETINGS IN FAVOR OF FREE DEBATE ON ISSUES ALONG STYLE OF COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS' MEETINGS, OPENED ITS COMMENTS BY AGAIN EXPOUNDING THIS PHILOSOPHY. THE CANADIANS SUGGEST INCLUDING THIS IN RULE 38 WITH LANGUAGE PROHIBITING SET SPEECHES AND FAVORING DEBATE ON CRITICAL ISSUES, AND EMPOWERING PRESIDENT TO RULE LENGTHY SPEECHES OUT OF ORDER.

2. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN GERMAN AND CANADIAN DRAFTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: BOTH, LIKE UNITED STATES, FAVOR ANNUAL MEETINGS RATHER THAN 3 PER BIENNIUM (RULE 1). ON RULE 3, CANADA SUGGESTS THAT IF COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD ELSEWHERE

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THAN IN ROME, HOST GOVERNMENT SHOULD BEAR ADDED COSTS. GERMANY SUGGESTS DELETING RULE 5 ON RESUMPTION OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AS UNNECESSARY. IN RULE 10, GERMANY SUGGESTS CHANGING "THE" BEFORE "SUPPLEMENTAL LIST" IN FIRST PARAGRAPH TO "ANY", TO ELIMINATE ANY APPARENT NECESSITY FOR SUPPLEMENTAL LIST. ON RULE 11, CANADA COMMENTS FAVORABLY THAT THIS APPARENTLY PERMITS FORMATION OF INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEES. ON ARTICLE 14, GERMANY LIKE UNITED STATES FAVORS CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE RE-

PORTING ON ALL CREDENTIALS, NOT MERELY DISPUTED ONES. ON RULE 15 GERMANY FAVORS ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS, POSITION FAVORED IN U.S. COMMENTS: GERMANY ADDS USEFUL ARGUMENT THAT ANNUAL CHANGES IN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP WOULD MAKE BIENNIAL ELECTIONS AWKWARD. ON RULE 23, CANADA SUGGESTS INCLUDING IN SECRETARIAT FUNCTIONS THAT OF PREPARING DOCUMENTATION TO FACILITATE COUNCIL SESSIONS, USING OTHER AGENCIES' RESOURCES TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. ON RULE 25, CANADA SAYS IT SEES NO NEED FOR EXPENDITURES BY COUNCIL OTHER THAN TO MAINTAIN SECRETARIAT AND HOLD COUNCIL SESSIONS. CANADA QUESTIONS NEED FOR ELABORATE VOTING PROCEDURES IN RULE 38. GERMANY SUGGESTS INCLUDING "GROUPING OF STATES" IN HEADING OF CHAPTER XII AND IN RULE 59, TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION BY EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY EXCEPT FOR VOTING RIGHTS. CANADA ON OTHER HAND FAVORS RESTRICTING PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS, SUGGESTING THEY MAKE SUBMISSIONS IN WRITING FOR CIRCULATION, AND BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK ONLY ON MATTERS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THEM.

3. OTHER COMMENTS. UNITED STATES COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED OCTOBER 7, AFTER END-OF-MONTH DEADLINE. (ALTHOUGH THEY WERE TRANSMITTED BY DEPARTMENT AIRGRAM 6154, SEPTEMBER 25, THEY WERE NOT RECEIVED IN EMBASSY ROME UNTIL OCTOBER 6.) IN ADDITION TO THESE, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT HAS RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM FRANCE, HUNGARY, AND JAPAN. AUSTRALIA'S COMMENTS ARE EN ROUTE, ACCORDING TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, WHETHER TO ROME OR NEW YORK IS NOT CLEAR. COPIES ARE BEING OBTAINED FROM SECRETARIAT OF FRENCH, HUNGARIAN, AND JAPANESE COMMENTS, TO BE FORWARDED BEFORE END OF WEEK TO STOWE, DAUGHERTY, AND SURENA, AND AUSTRALIAN COMMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED AS SOON AS RECEIVED. (COMMENT: IT IS HOPEFUL SIGN THAT NONE OF G-77 COUNTRIES HAVE SUBMITTED COMMENTS.)

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4. PREPARATIONS FOR PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HAS BRIEFED OTHER OECD-DAC COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP, ON U.S. PLANS TO CONSULT OCTOBER 23-24. GERMAN REPRESENTATIVE IS TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR GERMAN LEGAL SPECIALIST TO COME THAT EARLY, AND AUSTRALIAN HAS ASKED HIS GOVERNMENT TO SEND LEGAL SPECIALIST FROM SOME OTHER POST FOR THOSE CONSULTATIONS. STRUCTURE FOR OECD-DAC CONSULTATION IS CONFUSED BY TRANSFER OF ITS FRENCH CHAIRMAN TO BE AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND. FORUM MAY BE EITHER AFTERMATH OF GENEVA GROUP MEETING, OR INFORMAL UNNAMED GROUP.

5. POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE FOR WORKING GROUP MEETING. POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF OCTOBER 27 MEETING SHOULD BE GREATLY IMPROVED OVER THAT OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, WHICH WAS ONE OF STORMIEST AND MOST CONTENTIOUS IN ROME FOOD MEETING HISTORY. CLOSING

HOURS WERE MARKED BY HIGH EMOTIONAL PITCH RESULTING FROM ACTIVITIES OF SEVERAL G77 REPRESENTATIVES ACTING ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS. PARTICULARLY SHARP CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED AT WFC SECRETARIAT, AND EVEN AT PRESIDENT. THESE TENSIONS WERE EASED GREATLY

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3552
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 14620

E.O. 11652: GDS
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IN ECOSOC REVIEW SHORTLY THEREAFTER. REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS TO UNGA 7TH SPECIAL SESSION, AND TO THAT SESSION'S RESOLUTION, HAVE BEEN FAVORABLE. 28TH SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM IN ROME WAS PARTICULARLY HARMONIOUS ONE, AND OTHER CONFERENCES ARE PROCEEDING WITH MINIMAL CONTROVERSY. OF PARTICULAR IMPACT IN PROGRESS MADE IN GENEVA ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, RESULTING IN CONVENING OF CONCLUSIVE IFAD MEETING IN ROME AT SAME TIME AS WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE. MEXICAN CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP ATTENDED IFAD MEETING IN GENEVA AND CONSENTED TO SIMUL-

TANEOUS MEETING OF TWO BODIES. HE SEEMS MORE INTERESTED IN IFAD MEETING, AND WFC SECRETARIAT SPECULATES THAT HE MAY STEP ASIDE IN FAVOR OF SOME OTHER CHAIRMAN IN WORKING GROUP, SO THAT HE MAY CONCENTRATE ON IFAD MEETING.

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6. RECOMMENDATIONS. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BELIEVES SITUATION HERE WOULD BE FAVORABLE TO AGREEMENT, PROVIDED WE DO NOT RESUME POLITICAL DEBATE WHERE IT LEFT OFF. WITH SO LITTLE PROGRESS HAVING BEEN MADE SO FAR, IT WOULD BE GOOD TACTIC TO START COMPLETELY AFRESH IN WORKING GROUP SESSIONS. DEPENDING ON PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO DEFINE AT OUTSET AREAS REQUIRING DISCUSSION AND BEGIN ON TECHNICAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL BASIS. PRESENCE OF LEGAL SPECIALIST FROM NEW YORK TO EXPLAIN NEW YORK DRAFT AND PRECEDENTS, IN CONTRAST TO ABSENCE OF SUCH SPECIALIST IN JUNE, WILL BE HELPFUL.

7. KEY DIFFERENCE EVIDENT IN PREVIOUS MEETING WAS ROLE OF PRESIDENT, WHICH SEEMS TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO BE LARGELY THEORETICAL ISSUE. MAREI, AS PRINCIPAL FIGURE IN WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, CANNOT BE EASILY RELEGATED TO MERE ROLE OF CHAIRMANING COUNCIL SESSION. WITH HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS SECOND MAN IN EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, ON OTHER HAND, HE CANNOT PERSONALLY DIRECT DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES OF SECRETARIAT, NOR IS THAT HIS STYLE OF OPERATION IN ANY CASE. DR. HANNAH IS EXPERIENCED EXECUTIVE WITH CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL FORCE, AND WOULD NOT FIT WELL INTO ROLE OF TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT BUREAUCRAT, NOR WOULD SUCH ROLE BE HELPFUL TO ACTIVITIES OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAVE GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP, DATING FROM ASSOCIATION IN PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. WE SHOULD TRY NOT TO GO ANY FURTHER IN RULES OF PROCEDURE THAN NECESSARY IN DEFINING THEIR RELATIVE ROLES.

8. OUTCOME OF WORKING GROUP MEETING WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON PRELIMINARY HANDLING OF ROLE OF PRESIDENT. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO SUGGESTS THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT EXAMINE GERMAN COMMENTS ENLARGING ROLE OF PRESIDENT, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE TO US. IF THEY ARE, WE COULD TEST THEM IN PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH G77, TO SEE IF THEY WOULD SERVE AS COMPROMIST. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, GERMAN COMMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO UNITED STATES, OR IF G-77 WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM, WE COULD PROPOSE THAT WORKING GROUP SIMPLY OMIT CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS FROM RULES OF PROCEDURE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, OR REPORT TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL THAT CONSENSUS ON CERTAIN ISSUES HAD NOT BEEN REACHED AND

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RECOMMEND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE.
AS TIME PASSES, MOST OF THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD WORK THEMSELVES
OUT. SOME VAGUENESS ON RULES OF PROCEDURE WOULD NOT APPEAR TO
BE SERIOUS PROBLEM, SINCE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND FAO'S
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS REPORTEDLY
OPERATE WITHOUT WRITTEN RULES OF PROCEDURE. IMPORTANT CON-
SIDERATIONS ARE, NOT TO CONTINUE CONTROVERSY OVER RULES OF
PROCEDURE AND NOT TO FORCE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO WASTE ITS
TIME DISCUSSING THEM. VOLPE

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